IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS—*cont.*

(2) AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE TO THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES (TAXATION OF PASSENGERS AND GOODS) ACT, 1952 (MADRAS ACT XVI OF 1952).

* THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'*That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Government of Madras under Section* 4 (2) *of the Madras Motor Vehicles* (*Taxation of Passengers and Goods*) *Act,* 1952 (*Madras Act XVI of* 1952), *amending the Schedule to the said Act, be approved* :—

DRAFT RULE.

" *In the said Schedule, for sub-rule* (3) *of rule* 1, *the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely* :—

' (3) *The amount of the composition fee calculated with reference to clause* (a) *or clause* (b) *of sub-rule* (1) *for the quarters ending with the* 31*st December* 1953, *the* 31*st March* 1954, *the* 30*th June* 1954 *and the* 30*th September* 1954 *in respect of public carrier vehicles and for the quarters ending with the* 31*st December* 1953, *the* 31*st March* 1954, *and the* 30*th June* 1954 *in respect of stage carriages, which until the* 30*th September* 1953 *were plying on routes which have become inter-State routes as a result of the formation of the Andhra State with effect from the* 1*st October* 1953, *shall be payable at the same rate at which and at the same places where it was being paid for the quarter ending with the* 30*th September* 1953. ' " ' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I am going to put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

' That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Government of Madras under Section 4 (2) of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952 (Madras Act XVI of 1952), amending the Schedule to the said Act, be approved :—

DRAFT RULE.

" In the said Schedule, for sub-rule (3) of rule 1, the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely :—

' (3) The amount of the composition fee calculated with reference to clause (*a*) or clause (*b*) of sub-rule (1) for the quarters ending with the 31st December 1953, the 31st March 1954, the 30th June 1954 and the 30th September 1954 in respect of public carrier vehicles and for the quarters ending with the 31st December 1953, the 31st March 1954, and the 30th June 1954 in respect of stage carriages, which until the 30th September 1953 were plying on routes which have become inter-State routes as a result of

the formation of the Andhra State with effect from the 1st October 1953, shall be payable at the same rates at which and at the same places where it was being paid for the quarter ending with the 30th September 1953.' " ' "

The motion was put and carried.

V.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(1) THE MADRAS DISTRICT BOARDS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—" We may now continue the debate on the Madras District Boards (Second Amendment) Bill."

* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given an amendment to this Bill seeking to circulate this Bill to elicit public opinion. Sir, I basically oppose this Bill brought forward by the Hon. Minister for Local Administration. In giving the reasons for this Bill, the Hon. Minister has only dealt with law and order, requisitioning of vehicles, de-requisitioning of vehicles, compensation and penalty to be imposed on those who act against the provisions of the Bill. Sir, I can understand if Government had accepted the principle of free and fair election and if they had wanted to conduct such an election, surely they ought to have adopted all the clauses in the Representation of the People Act. During the last general election, the Representation of the People Act was in force and I am certain that all the political parties will agree with me when I say that under that Act, the election was conducted very fairly and peacefully. I want to know whether the Government have brought a comprehensive legislation in order to conduct the district board elections in a fair and free manner. If they had done so, I can understand the spirit of the Government and the good motive of the Government. Now, in this Bill, the Government have taken whatever provisions they wanted urgently and have omitted the more important provisions of the Representation of the People Act. I can quote some examples. If the Government were sincere in holding a free and fair election, provisions in the Central Act relating to breaches by officers at the polling stations would have been taken; they would have adopted the clauses relating to stopping of corrupt practices in the elections and at the polling stations; they would have taken the clause defining the freedom of political parties to conduct election propaganda. If they were sincere in conducting a fair and free election, they should have taken from the Central Act provisions relating to maintenance of secrecy of voting. I submit, Sir, that the Government have conveniently left out all the important clauses in the Representation of the People Act and they have brought this Bill only for the maintenance of law and order at the polling booths. Of course, we are not against maintenance of law and order at the polling stations. I submit that even without this Bill, in view of the